

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 H-02 IO-10 SS-15

NSC-05 SCCT-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SY-05 USIA-15 USSS-00

/087 W

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R 031425Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5102

INFO RUQMBE AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1176

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLASSIFIED SANAA 0536

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINS, ASAF, YE

SUBJ: YEMEN AIRLINES HIJACKING INCIDENT OF FEB. 23, 1975

BEIRUT FOR CIVAIR ATTACHE

REF: A) 3973 OF MAY 16, 1974 B) STATE 044663

1. SUMMARY. YEMEN AIRLINES DC-3 HIJACKED FEB 23 WHILE EN ROUTE HODEIDA TO SANAA. HIJACKER, ALI AL-AWADHI, HAD PERSONAL GRIEVANCES AGAINST YARG AND HOPED ACT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL COMPENSATION. DEMANDED TO BE FLOWN ABU DHABI. SEIZED BY SAUDI AUTHORITIES WHO PERMITTED PLAN TO LAND JIZAN FOR RE-FUELING. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN YARG AND SAG, AL-AWADHI FLOWN TO SANAA FEB. 24. PLACED ON TRIAL FOLLOWING DAY WITH GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT HE WOULD BE EXECUTED. VERDICT THWARTED BY ARRIVAL SANAA FEB 26 BY MEMBERS OF AL-AWADHI TRIBE WHO SLAUGHTERED CAMEL AT REPUBLICAN PALACE, THUS SIGNIFYING THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF TRIBAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT AND PLEADING FOR CLEMENCY. ON MAR 2, AL-AWADHI FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO DEATH. MILITARY COMMAND COUNCIL COMMUTED PENALTY TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. FOLLOWING ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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HIJACKING DETAILS KEYED TO INFORMATION REQUESTED IN HIJACK-

ING REPORT CHECKLIST ATTACHED REF A. END SUMMARY.

1. DATE OF HIJACKING: FEB 24, 1975
2. YEMEN AIRLINES
3. SCHEDULED AIR CARRIER
4. AIRCRAFT REGISTERED IN YAR
5. FLIGHT NUMBER 505
6. DC-3
7. HODEIDA TO SANAA
8. HIJACKER INTENDED TO FLY HODEIDA-ABU DHABI BUT PLANE DIVERTED OVER SAUDI AIRSPACE TO JIZAN FOR REFUELING.
9. PLANE DEPARTED HODEIDA 1200 HOURS. HIJACKING OCCURRED DURING TAKEOFF. NO OTHER TIMES AVAILABLE.
10. N/A
11. 3 CREW MEMBERS
12. NONE
13. HIJACKER BOARDED VIA REAR EXIT
14. N/A
15. NONE
16. BOARDED BY NORMAL PRESENTATION OF TICKET
17. N/A
18. N/A
19. TAKEOFF AT HODEIDA
20. HIJACKING OCCURRED 1200 HOURS. UPON TAKEOFF
21. HIJACKER ENTERED OPEN COCKPIT AREA AND FORCED INDIAN PILOT TO CHANGE COURSE
22. WEAPONS USED WERE HANDGUN AND JAMBIYA (DAGGER) COMMONLY CARRIED BY MAJORITY OF ADULT YEMENI MALES.
23. ARAB WAS LANGUAGE USED, THOUGH PILOT REQUIRED SOME ENGLISH TRANSLATION
25. PILOT WAS THREATENED
26. NONE
27. N/A
28. CONVERSATION
29. N/A
- 30 REQUESTED ORALLY PLANE BE FLOWN ABU DHABI
31. HIJACKER AL-AWADHI HAD CLAIMS AGAINST YARG FOR THE DEATH OF SOME RELATIVES AND DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION OF SOME PROPERTY FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED NO COMPENSATION. WISHED TO DRAMATIZE HIS CLAIM BY HIJACKING WITH HOPE OF INTERCESSION FROM SHAIKH ZAID BIN SULTAN OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

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33. PILOT ABLE CONVINCE AL-AWADHI OF NECESSITY FOR REFUELING STOP AT JIZAN. ONCE ON THE GROUND, WAS ALSO ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM OF NEED FOR PILOT'S PRESENCE ON GROUND. THEREAFTER, PILOT REFUSED TO RETURN TO THE AIRCRAFT.
34. N/A
35. JIZAN AIRPORT DIRECTOR AND AIRPORT SECURITY CHIEF GAINED AL-AWADI'S CONFIDENCE BY TELLING HIM HE WAS WELCOMED GUEST ETC. SECURITY CHIEF ALLOWED TO ENTER PLANE. WHEN CLOSE

TO AL-AWADHI, THREW HIMSELF ON HIJACKER AND WITH ASSISTANCE FROM SECURITY FORCES, DISARMED HIM.

36. CONTAINED ABOVE

37. SAUDI TREATMENT OF PASSENGERS AND CREW WAS GOOD.

38. HIJACKING ENDED IN LATER AFTERNOON OF FEB 23

39. SAUDIS WILLING RELEASE AIRCRAFT SAME DAY, BUT PILOT REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO FLY UNTIL FEB 24 AT WHICH TIME SAUDIS AGREED TO PLANE'S RETURN TO SANAA WITH PRISONER UNDER ESCORT.

40. NO DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT, BAGGAGE OR EQUIPMENT REPORTED

41. FOLLOWING HIS CAPTURE, AL-AWADHI WAS HANDCUFFED UNTIL HIS RETURN TO YAR FOLLOWING DAY.

42. HIJACKER'S FULL NAME IS ALI BIN ALI AL-AWADHI. AGE UNKNOWN. BORN IN AL-BAIDA PROVINCE OF YAR. FROM THE AL-AWADH TRIBE. QUITE PROBABLY MENTALLY DISTURBED.

43. AL-AWADHI WAS IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT TO TRIAL FEB 25 AT STATE SECURITY COURT IN SANAA. A SENTENCE OF DEATH WAS WIDELY PREDICTED, BUT ON FEB 26 DELEGATION FROM THE AL-AWADH TRIBE WENT TO REPUBLICAN PALACE IN SANAA--THE SEAT OF THE RULING COMMAND COUNCIL--SLAUGHTERED A CAMEL AS A TOKEN OF THE TRIBE'S ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME, AND REQUESTED THAT AL-AWADHI'S LIFE BE SPARED. ON MARCH 2, AL-AWADHI WAS FOUND GUILTY BY THE COURT AND RECEIVED THE DEATH SENTENCE. THE COMMAND COUNCIL COMMUTED THIS SENTENCE TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT LATER IN THE DAY. SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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